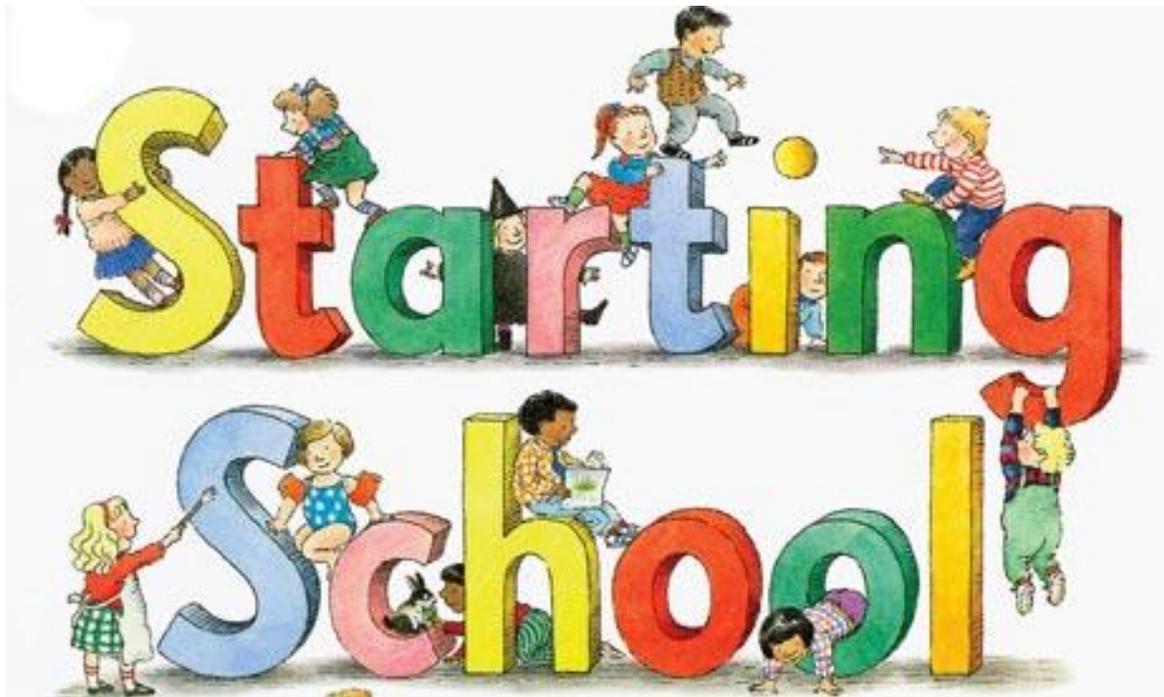


Welcome to Millhouse Primary School



A small school with a big heart



**Information booklet for parents of
FS2 children**

Our Vision

MILLHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL is ...

a safe, happy, inclusive school which provides a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Our teachers nurture children who are determined to achieve the best they can; who believe in themselves; who show respect and appreciate the gifts and abilities of those around them; and who co-operate with one another patiently and responsibly. Our children thrive in an environment which stimulates their curiosity and encourages them to be creative as well as hard-working. Our school is vibrant, caring and welcoming to all.

For everyone to reach their potential at Millhouse Primary School, we expect:

From Children:

- A positive outlook, a determined approach and outstanding attendance.
- Respect for one another, responsible behaviour and enthusiastic teamwork.

From Parents:

- Passion and interest in what their children are learning at school
- A supportive approach to the school's policies on homework and safeguarding

From Teachers:

- Delivery of a rich curriculum to stimulate creativity, determination and self-belief
- A commitment to their own learning journey to maintain high standards of teaching

From the Headteacher and Governors

- A determination to shape the school as a centre of excellence for primary education
- A care for the health, safety and well-being of all children and staff



Getting your child ready for school

Starting school is a milestone, not only for your child but also for you! You may be excited but also a little worried about your child taking these first steps towards independence. We are here to work together with you to ensure that the start of their school journey is a positive one.

There are some things you can do now to help them prepare for school. The **Road to School Map** provides lots of useful suggestions of how you can help to get them ready.



This tracker helps you and your child prepare for school.

The Road To School

Speaking & literacy

- I like to read stories & look at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
- I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
- I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy making marks
- I am practising holding a pencil

Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I like playing games with others
- I like interacting with other children

Everyone starts school with different abilities - your teacher will help you progress at your own level.

Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
- I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
- I like asking questions

Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
- I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash and dry my hands without any help

Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days

What are you looking forward to the most?
Is there anything you're unsure of?

Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
- I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
- I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my shirt & use a zip
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can change into my PE kit & put my coat on

Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to be away from my things
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my school
- I am feeling confident about starting school
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my school
- I am feeling confident about starting school



www.nurseryresources.org

Remember - learning is not a competition, children learn at different rates. For more ideas to help prepare your child for school, talk to your childcare practitioner.

Getting started

The first half term in school is all about getting to know each other. The children come from a wide variety of settings and some may not know any other children in their class. Don't worry about this – it's amazing how quickly children make friends! Within the class, there will be some older Year 1 children who will be able to help the younger children learn the new routines. In addition all of our new starters are allocated a Year 6 buddy. They will support our Reception children in settling in and be there to help at playtimes and lunchtimes.

During this half term, staff will observe and work with your child making judgements regarding the best way to engage them and take their learning forward. It really is a partnership and staff will communicate closely with you to ensure your child makes a happy start to school life.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

Reception

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **seven areas of Learning and Development**.

These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development;
- Personal, social and emotional development;
- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the World;
- Expressive Arts & Design.

These seven areas together are used to plan your child's learning and activities in Reception. Children in the EYFS learn by creative and critical thinking, by playing, exploring & being active - both indoors and outside.



Assessment

On entry to school, children will be assessed using the National Baseline Assessment tool.

We use a tracking programme called Early Essence to document children's progress and parents can access and contribute to this themselves. Assessments are made throughout the year and are based on observations and knowledge of the whole child.

We use regular 'talking points' or 'challenges' in the form of home learning tasks to support and guide parents along the learning journey their child makes.

At the end of the year, we share a Profile Report, detailing your child's achievements and progress within the Foundation Stage curriculum and including future targets to support their learning moving forwards.

Throughout the first year of schooling (and beyond) we aim to establish strong relationships with parents through workshops and parents' evenings to ensure you are given the knowledge of how best to support your child.

Positive Behaviour

We encourage all children to make positive behaviour choices, trying their best and showing kindness and consideration for others.

Golden rules: All classes follow the school's 5 Golden Rules – we are gentle; we work hard; we are kind; we are honest; we show respect. We also agree our own Class Charter at the start of the year.

Rewards: Our positive ethos means that we believe in giving praise and encouragement to children for their efforts and achievements, both socially and academically. Children join one of our house teams, are given team points and also collect stickers on their own personal Superstar Chart. Certificates are presented in our weekly celebration assemblies held every Friday at 9:10am. Parents of children who have been chosen to receive a special mention that week are invited to attend.

Golden Time: At the end of every day in Class 1, the children are rewarded with Golden Time (5 minutes playing with their toy from home).

Consequences: We have a whole school traffic light system for use if children are making inappropriate choices. Any concerns are shared with parents at the end of the day.

Uniform



Our uniform gives a strong sense of identity; it looks smart; it allows children to be easily recognisable when out and about on visits.

All uniform is available to be ordered from our school uniform supplier, Vortex. Order forms can be sourced from the school office; alternatively you can order online at www.vortexschoolwear.co.uk/Primary-Schools/Millhouse-Primary-School

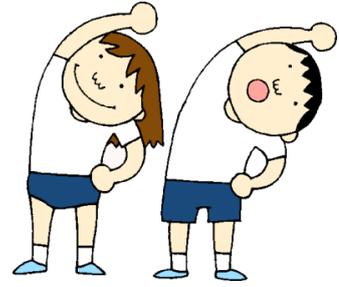
Non-logo items can also be purchased from many high street stores and supermarkets.

What is needed:

- Red school jumpers: v neck, round neck, hoodie, or cardigans
- White / red t-shirts
- Black / grey trousers, shorts, skirts
- Red gingham summer dresses
- Black shoes, no complex fastenings
- Coat: Please add a large loop to help with hanging our coats up on the pegs over bags.
- Water Bottle (named)

PE

- White t-shirt
- Black Shorts
- Pumps
- No jewellery, only stud earrings but these must be removed on PE day.



Outdoor Classroom

- Wellington boots that can stay at school
- Outside waterproof
- Hats/ gloves
- Sun hat and sun cream that your child can apply when needed



When they join school, every child is given a book bag and a PE bag.

Please make sure your child's name is labelled on everything.

Other important information

Arrival at school:

Establishing good routines from the start helps children to settle quickly. The morning routine is particularly important.

Arrive at school from 8:45am through the main classroom door into the cloakroom. The start of school is 9:00am but we encourage parents to arrive with their children a little earlier to help them to settle.

Help your child to find their peg in the cloakroom, pointing out the character symbol that matches their name. Place their book bag, PE bag and coat onto the peg.

If they have brought a small toy for Golden time, place this in the blue box by the door.

Come into the classroom and support them with the welcome activities. At some point during this time, please help them to write their name and place it into the basket.

Parents can stay for a short while and help their child get busy and feel settled but when you feel you are able to leave, please do so. If your child is distressed staff will come and chat to you about how best to deal with the situation together.



Home-time:

School finishes at 3.30pm each day.

Parents & carers are asked to collect children from outside the Class 1 side door.

Children will not be allowed to go with any other adult without your permission. In order to avoid difficulties, school must be informed if you have made arrangements for someone else to collect your child from school.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to fulfil their potential. We strive towards every child reaching our 96.5% attendance target to ensure that they can get the best out of the educational opportunities provided.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please ring the school office and leave a message before 9:30am. It is important to provide a precise reason for the absence so that we are able to authorise it. Please provide school with any medical appointment cards, and where ever possible make

appointments out of school hours; where this is not possible we ask that children attend school prior to or following their appointment.

Leave of absences

We are unable to authorise any term-time leave of absences (including holidays) unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please see our Attendance Policy (published on the website) for more details.

Medical Needs:

Medical conditions and needs will need to be disclosed to school and kept on our records.

Asthma : Children who are asthmatic will need up to date inhalers in school which will be kept in the medical drawer within the classroom.

Medicines: If your child needs any medication during the school day, please complete the paperwork available from the school office providing authorisation for it to be administered by a member of staff. Please note we are only able to administer medication prescribed by a doctor.

School Meals

All children in Foundation Stage and KS1 are provided with a free school meal.

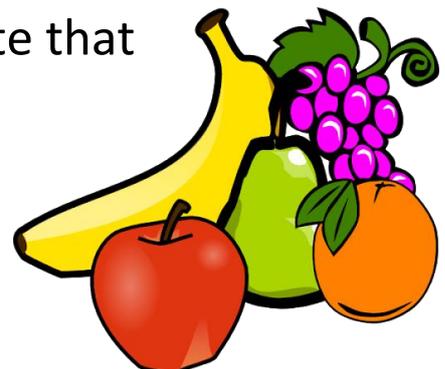
Each day children are presented with a choice of meals – new menus will be shared at the start of the year. Last year's sample menu can be seen here:

<https://www.millhouseprimary.co.uk/school-meals/>

If your child has any specific allergies, please inform the school office, providing medical evidence. Our catering provider will then ensure an appropriate menu is provided. If you have concerns about your child due to specific eating habits/ issues, please talk with the class teacher or head teacher about how we can support.

Snacks

Fruit is provided to Key Stage 1 children at morning break, free of charge. If your child prefers they can bring their own healthy snack - fruit (including dried fruit) or vegetables only. Please note that cereal bars are not permitted.



Useful contact information

Website:

www.millhouseprimary.co.uk

School office:

Telephone: 01226 763019

Email: schooloffice@millhouseprimary.co.uk

Headteacher:

Email: k.gray@millhouseprimary.co.uk

If you are unsure about any of the information contained in this booklet, or if you require anything further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you!

